

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 14 and 44 are currently amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claims 44-46 were rejected because the claimed invention was allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses this rejection and believes that the previous amendment to claim 44 overcame the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. However, in order to expedite the allowance of this application, claim 44 has been amended to recite the step of "using the algorithm as a basis upon which to implement the particular game." This is a useful, concrete and tangible result of the algorithm recited in claim 44, recited in the body of the claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is now overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-36, 38, 39 and 41-44 under 35 USC § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,967,983 ("Lawrence"). These rejections are respectfully traversed, for reasons including those set forth below and in Amendment A.

Lawrence fails to teach, suggest or indicate some of the specific applications and elements recited in the pending claims. Lawrence provides a "method for ordering all of the possible hands into a particular sequence Given a particular hand ..., all of the possible hands arising from the particular hand ... is iterated and the types of all possible resulting hands tabulated.... After the iteration is completed, the results obtained is a tabulation of each combination of hands obtained." (Lawrence Abstract.) More particularly, Lawrence discloses methods for providing a tabulation of possible hands arising from a particular hand, in order to produce assigned numbers that correspond to these possible hands. However, Lawrence does not specifically disclose or suggest "converting a number representing a game arrangement into a symbolic representation of the game arrangement." In one example of the present invention, converting a number into symbolic representation of the game arrangement is converting a number such as 254 into a game arrangement such as a Bar, Lemon, Bar across a slot machine payline, or a particular hand of cards in a poker game. (Page 1, lines 10-19 for description of

“game arrangements”; page 21, lines 3-5 for description of converting a number to a game arrangement.) However, Lawrence does not disclose converting any of these assigned numbers to game arrangements.

The preambles of independent claims 1 and 14 recite “converting a number representing a game arrangement into a symbolic representation of the game arrangement.” Similarly, the preamble of claim 44 recites “an algorithm for interconverting between a number representing a game arrangement and a symbolic representation of the game arrangement.” However, the Office Action indicated that these distinctions over Lawrence were not previously given patentable weight because they were recited in preambles. Accordingly, the bodies of claims 1 and 14 now recite “converting the number into a symbolic representation of the game arrangement” by performing recited steps. Similarly, the body of claim 44 now recites “an algorithm for interconverting between a number representing a game arrangement and a symbolic representation of the game arrangement.” It is respectfully submitted that these amendments overcome the rejections of claims 1, 14 and 44, and all claims dependent therefrom.

Independent claims 25 and 36 recite “calculating a number of sequentially arranged game arrangements skipped over to reach a game arrangement having the particular value set at the given position or symbol.” One aspect of this “skipping over” process is described in the specification as follows:

For each position, the algorithm determines the number of other game arrangements that have been “skipped over” to reach the symbol of the current position. Remember that all game arrangements have been positioned in a particular order with respect to one another, given the position and symbol orders defined above. Within that order there are a number of “earlier” game arrangements in the overall sequence.

(Present application at p. 12, lines 4-9.)

In contrast, Lawrence pertains to the following:

Given a particular hand (the first five cards given to the player in a game of five-card draw poker), all of the possible hands arising from the particular hand (as a result of the number of cards kept by the player) is iterated and the types of all possible resulting hands tabulated.

(Abstract, lines 6-10.)

Lawrence provides methods for determining possible *future* hands based on a current hand. As understood, Lawrence does not teach, suggest or indicate looking to the *past* for “calculating a number of sequentially arranged game arrangements skipped over to reach a game arrangement having the particular value set at the given position or symbol.” Accordingly, Applicant’s attorney believes that the rejections of claims 25 and 36, along with their dependent claims, should be withdrawn.

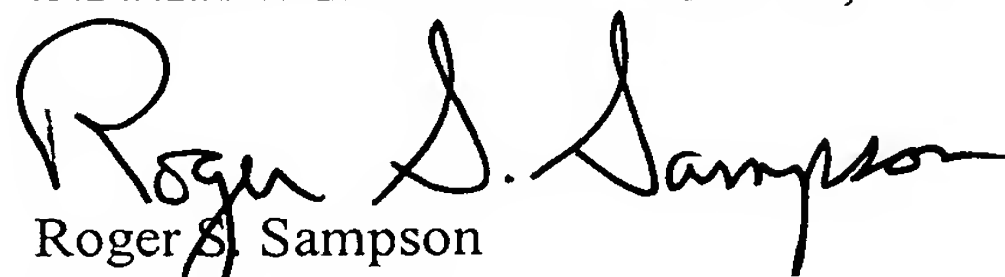
Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, dependent claims 11, 23, 29, and 40 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 over Lawrence in view of what was characterized as “Applicant’s Admission.” However, with regard to the statements above relating to the Examiner’s 35 USC § 102 rejection, the Applicant believes this rejection is overcome. Because the independent claims from which claims 11, 23, 29 and 40 depend are allowable, claims 11, 23, 29 and 40 are also allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant’s Attorney believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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